

TOPIC Koethen Airfield

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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25X1X DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 31 July 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

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SOURCE

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1. Between 6:50 and 8:15 p.m. on 29 June 1951, no aircraft were observed at Koethen airfield. The visibility was poor. The hangars were closed. A radio installation with four masts was located about 500 meters west of the Koethen-Frosigk road and about 200 meters south of the Baasdorf-Badegast road. The masts, about 8 meters high and about 8 to 10 meters apart, were arranged in N-S and E-W directions. They were braced at three points by four guy wires each. Each mast had a cover plate (sic) on top. A lead-in, fitted at the midpoint of each mast, led to the new wooden hut located in the middle of the square. A short metal rod was seen on top of the hut. (1)
2. A radio installation with two masts was situated about 100 to 120 meters west of the Arendsdorf-Koethen road and about 250 to 300 meters north of the Badegast-Wuelknitz road. The masts, about 8 meters high, stood in N-S direction, about 15 to 20 meters apart. The southern mast was braced at two points by three guy wires each. A cable fitted at the masthead led to the ground vertically. An antenna led northward to the ground from an insulator installed on the top of the mast. A lead-in, fitted at about the center of the insulator, led to a radio truck perked between the two masts. The northern mast was braced at three points by four guy wires each. A line led from the top of the mast to a wooden hut 3x3x5 meters just next to the mast. A truck was parked inside the hut. A tent and a kitchen hut were seen northwest of the radio truck, between the masts. Two twin lines led from the radio installation, one toward the field and the other to the radio installation with four masts. A four strand line supported by telegraph poles led from the radio installation to the Koethen-Frosigk road. Source followed the line almost to Frosigk.
3. A wooden mast 5 meters high and with a red cone-shaped light on top was located 5 meters northeast of the northern mast of the radio installation with two masts. Two rows, each of six lights about 70 to 100 meters apart, extended from the radio installation toward the runway. The space between the two rows was about 70 meters.
4. Between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on 24 June, four stand-by jet fighters of the alert flight were parked on the eastern end of the runway. Red three-digit numbers of the 100 and 300 series were seen on the planes. The hangars were closed. No additional planes were observed on the field. (2) a starting carriage, a radio truck with an extended antenna and several jeeps were parked at the

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take-off point. [REDACTED] Five 37-mm guns were seen at the AA gun emplacement west of the Koethen-Baasdorf road. (3)

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5. Between 2:30 and 6 p.m. on 30 June, jet fighters of the alert flight with [REDACTED] of the runway. The planes had two bulges on each wing. The two hangars in the northeastern section of the field were open and occupied by an unknown number of jet fighters. Six jet fighters were parked in front of the hangar in the northwestern section of the field. The radio installation with four masts, previously located west of the field, was dismantled. A radio truck with three mast antennas was parked at the take-off point.

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6. The field was observed on 3 July between 7 and 8:30 p.m. It rained occasionally, and visibility was poor with a cloud base of about 500 meters. The northern hangar in the northeastern section of the field was open and occupied by jet fighters. The southern hangar was closed. Ten jet fighters, including one with a slightly higher and steeper rudder assembly, and three single-engine planes were parked in front of the hangars west of the flight control building. Four jet fighters of the alert flight were parked on the eastern end of the runway.

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(4) A radio truck with an extended antenna, another with three mast antennas, a starting carriage, two tank trucks, several jeeps, and a truck with a plexiglass roof were seen at the take-off point. At 8:30 p.m., the three single-engine aircraft were being warmed up. Four searchlights mounted on trucks were located on both sides of the Koethen-Baasdorf road, one about 300 meters east of the road and the other three west of it at distances of about 500 meters, 250 meters, and 350 meters respectively.

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7. At 9 a.m., on 2 July, four alert jet fighters were still parked at the field. Eight additional jet fighters were seen in front of the hangars. Night flying was practiced at the field for the first time on 3 July between 11 p.m. and 1 a.m. As far as source could determine only local flights were made.

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